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FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND
ARCHITECTURE

INSTITUTED 1826.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1838.

EDINBURGH : THOMAS AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN, AND TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1872.

THE J. PAUL GETTY CENTER
LIBRARY

Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1872.

Council.

SIR GEORGE HARVEY, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.		J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.		G. P. CHALMERS, Esq.
JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.		GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

CHARLES LEES, Esq. TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

DAVID BRYCE, Esq.,		TRUSTEE.
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,	}	AUDITORS.
WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq.,		
JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.,		LIBRARIAN.
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.,	}	CURATORS OF LIBRARY.
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,		
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.,	}	VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,		
ROBERT HERDMAN, Esq.,		

REPORT.

THE Council has much pleasure in submitting to the Annual General Assembly of the Academicians the Report for 1872.

I. The Exhibition for 1872 was opened on the 15th Exhibition. February, and closed on the 11th May. The excellence of the Exhibition was attested by the gratifying circumstance that the sales of pictures very much exceeded those of last year, or of any former year in the history of the Academy. While the sales of 1871, as mentioned in last Report, were considerably in advance of those of the previous year, the sales of this year exceeded in value those of 1871 by a sum little short of £1000.

II. The Annual Dinner at the opening of the Exhibition The Dinner. took place in the Galleries on the evening of the 14th February, when the President and Council had the pleasure of receiving a distinguished company of gentlemen.

III. The following is an extract from the Report of the The Library. Librarian and Curators :—

“During last season the following books, some of which are of much value to Students of Art, have been added to the Library, .viz. :—‘Iconographie Générale et Méthodique du Costume du IV^e au XIX^e Siècle,’ par Raphael Jacquemin, Peintre (Paris, 1871); the last volume of the Holbein Society Reprints, ‘The Theatre of Women,’ designed by Jobst Ammon, edited by Alfred Aspland (1872); ‘The Chief Victories of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, designed by Martin Heemskerck in MDLV., and now illustrated with Portraits, Prints, and Notes by Sir William Stirling Maxwell, Bart. London and Edinburgh, privately printed for the Editor. 1870.’ This splendid volume, of which only a very limited number was printed, has been generously presented to the Library by Sir William Stirling Maxwell. It will be especially valuable as a historical record from the number of portraits of illustrious personages it contains. ‘Aratra Pentelici,’ by John Ruskin, Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford (London, 1872); ‘Gems of Modern German Art,’ by William B. Scott (London and New York, 1873); ‘The British School of Sculpture,’ by William B. Scott (London, 1872); ‘Murillo and the Spanish School of Painting,’ by William B. Scott (London and New York, 1873); ‘History of Sculpture, from the Earliest Ages to the Present Time,’ by Dr. Wilhelm Lübke, translated by F. E. Bunnett, 2 vols. (London, 1872).

“The attendance at the Library has been about the average of former years.

“JAMES DRUMMOND, *Librarian*.
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, *Curator*.
KENNETH MACLEAY, *Curator*.”

IV. The success which attended the Morning Class of the Life School, opened experimentally in the summer of last year, in compliance with the prayer of a Memorial addressed to the Visitors of the School by a large number of the students, seemed to the Council to call on them to open a similar class this year. The Report of the Visitors, an extract from which follows, shows that the work of the Life School has been eminently satisfactory :—

"The Session of 1871-72 commenced on the 6th November, and ended on the 8th July, the Evening Class having run 101 nights, and the Morning Class 26 days. The evening attendance was 1157 in all, giving an average of between 11 and 12 per night, while the day attendance was 214, giving an average of between 8 and 9.

"The Visitors are of opinion that satisfactory progress has been made, and is observable in many of the Studies, and they have much pleasure in recording the praiseworthy assiduity, and the diligent and orderly conduct of all the Students during the Session.

"KENNETH MACLEAY, *Visitor*.

ROBERT HERDMAN, *Visitor*.

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, *Visitor*."

The Council are much gratified to find, after a careful examination of the Students' productions, that the satisfaction expressed by the Visitors with the progress of the Students is well founded, and that the decided advance which the Council of last year recognised in their work over that of the preceding Session, has been fully maintained during the Session which closed in July.

V. As neither of the Drawings submitted last year in competition for the Stuart Prize seemed of sufficient merit to entitle it to the Prize, the Council found themselves intrusted with the application of last year's interest of the Stuart Fund, which, in conformity with the provisions of the Founder, fell to be added to the interest of this year. The Council were of opinion that the joint sum, amounting to about £40, was too large to be given in one Prize, and that if two Prizes were given, a greater number of Students would be induced to enter into competition than if there were only one. They resolved therefore to divide the amount into two sums, one of £25, and the other £14, to be awarded as first and second Prizes respectively to the authors of the

first and second best designs submitted in competition this year, under the following regulations :—

“ 1. The First Prize shall be awarded for the best Figure composition, and the second Prize for the second best. The subject to be left free, so that each competitor may select that which he believes he can most successfully work out. It will be borne in mind, however, that it is the highest class of designs which is contemplated, and for this, the pages of Scripture, History, Poetry, and Romance naturally furnish the widest range of subjects.

“ 2. The Designs to be executed in oil, or water-colour, chalk, charcoal, lead pencil, or pen and ink.

“ 3. The Designs not to be less than two feet in their shortest measurement. Works in sculpture, in alto, or basso-relievo, may also enter into competition, under the same regulations as to size.

“ 4. The competition to be open to all who are now, or have been during the Sessions 1868-69, 1869-70, or 1870-71 regular Students of the Royal Scottish Academy, or of the School of the Honourable the Board of Manufactures.”

The Council's anticipations as to the effect of offering two Prizes have been realized. Not only has a much larger number of designs been submitted in competition than in former years, but the designs are, on the whole, of higher class, both in conception and execution, and when compared with those of last year especially, show more earnestness and ability on the part of their authors.

The Council have, not without difficulty, adjudged the Prizes as follows :—

First. For Alto-Relievo, entitled “ Christ appearing to the two Marys,” to Mr. George Webster.

Second. For Monochrome, entitled “ Titus Oates denouncing a Conspirator,” to Mr. J. V. Scott.

The Council have awarded the remaining Prizes as follows :—

THE ACADEMY'S PRIZES—

For best Drawing in the Life	}	Mr. H. FRIER.
School,		
For Alto Relievo Sketch in clay	}	Mr. GEORGE WEBSTER.
from the Life,		
For best Painting in the Life	}	Mr. A. WATSON.
School,		
For Second Best, ditto,		Mr. J. C. NOBLE.
For Anatomical Drawing,		Mr. J. LETHEN.

THE KEITH PRIZE—

To the most meritorious Student, Mr. R. ROSS.

The drawings of Mr. Ross, and the paintings of Mr. Wallace and Mr. Abercromby, which were considered as non-competing, in consequence of these gentlemen having already received the first Prize in the departments of Drawing and Painting respectively, were considered worthy of honourable mention.

VI. Since last Annual General Meeting Messrs. John Smart, W. E. Lockhart, and W. Beattie Brown, elected at that Meeting Associates of the Academy, having complied with the provisions of the laws, have been added to the list of members. No further change has this year taken place in the ranks of the Ordinary Members.

VII. To the roll of Honorary Members have been added the names of John Pettie, A.R.A., and W. Q. Orchardson, A.R.A., who have most cordially accepted the honour conferred on them by the last Annual General Meeting.* The

* Letters by these gentlemen acknowledging their election will be found in the Appendix.

members of the Academy have peculiar satisfaction in recognising in Artists trained in the Edinburgh Schools of Art, talent and eminence sufficient to entitle them to a distinction the greatest which the Academy has it in its power to bestow.

VIII. The list of candidates for Associateship was signed by twenty-two competitors, but as, happily, no vacancies have occurred in the ranks of the Associates no election falls to take place.

IX. The following additions have been made during the last year to the Academy's collection of works of Art, viz. :— a picture by the late William Kennedy, bequeathed to the Academy by the late Miss Elizabeth Kennedy, and the large picture of Waterloo by the late George Jones, R.A., presented by his widow. The President and Council have no doubt that the Members will join them in their cordial acknowledgments to the donor of this valuable painting. Mrs. Jones also presented to the Academy three Water-colour designs by her late husband.

X. The Academy, at a Meeting held on the 15th July, resolved on a grant of £50 as a subscription towards making the pedestal of the Albert Memorial of polished granite, and placing it in Charlotte Square. Although the Academy had already voted the sum of £100 towards the Memorial, they joined with the utmost cordiality in the further effort which was being made to render it more worthy of the great man in whose honour it is to be erected.

XI. The Council had much pleasure in communicating to Mr. W. T. Thomson the thanks of the Academy, awarded to him at last General Meeting, for the important services

rendered by him to the Academy in aiding them with his most valuable advice on proposed alterations on the laws regulating the Pension Fund.

XII. The Council cannot close their Report without reference to a circumstance bearing materially on the interests and prospects of Art in this country.

It has been publicly announced that Mr. Henry G. Watson and Miss Watson, brother and sister of the late distinguished President of the Academy, Sir John Watson Gordon, have made arrangements for founding and liberally endowing a Chair of Fine Arts in the University of Edinburgh, to be called the Watson Gordon Professorship of Fine Art.

The Council have much pleasure in recognising in this not only a worthy and most appropriate memorial of the eminent Artist whose name is to be connected with the Chair, but an enlightened appreciation of the claims of Art, and an important step towards placing it in the position which it ought to occupy as a branch of liberal education.

It will be gratifying to the members of the Academy to know that the founders have connected this most important Professorship with the Academy, of which their deceased brother was one of the most distinguished ornaments, by providing that the President of the Academy for the time being shall be conjoined with the University Court in the nomination of the occupant of the Chair, and that the Students who are successful in obtaining the Academy's Prizes, shall, to the number of six annually, have, during the following Session, the right of free attendance on the Lectures.

GEORGE HARVEY, *President.*

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Academy Library, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, the 13th November 1872, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows, viz. :—

Council.

SIR GEORGE HARVEY, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.

WALLER H. PATON, Esq.

G. P. CHALMERS, Esq.

WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq.

GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

CHARLES LEES, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

DAVID BRYCE, Esq.,

TRUSTEE.

ROBERT HERDMAN, Esq.,

} AUDITORS.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,

JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.,

LIBRARIAN.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

} CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

G. P. CHALMERS, Esq.,

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,

} VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.

G. P. CHALMERS, Esq.,

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.,

APPENDIX.

LONDON, 21 ST. JOHN'S WOOD ROAD, N.W.,
11th November 1871.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th, in which you inform me of the honour the Royal Scottish Academy have done me.

I have extreme pleasure in accepting the rank of Honorary Member of the Royal Scottish Academy, and I am proud to believe that in the estimation of those whose good opinion I value so much, I am held worthy of so high a distinction.—I am, yours sincerely,

JOHN PETTIE.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq., R.S.A.

LONDON, 19 ST. JOHN'S WOOD ROAD,
11th November 1871.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your note intimating the great honour conferred on me by the Royal Scottish Academy.

In accepting with so much gratification as I do the high distinction of Honorary Membership, I cannot help a touch of "Auld Lang Syne," that tells me, that from no other quarter could honour be so welcome, or bring with it so much pleasure.—I have the honour to be, dear Sir, your most obedient Servant,

W. Q. ORCHARDSON.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq., R.S.A.

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